

It is a thrill and honor of my life to have my pastor here today to help us open this Congress like we do every morning: with prayer.

I honor Pastor BILL JOHNSON and all the pastors across the country. Today, the pastor who baptized my four children, who married my daughter, we are so glad, so proud to have him lead us and open this House.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many freedoms that we value, but there is nothing I value more than freedom of religion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING HER EMINENCE ROBIAMNY BALCACER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Her Eminence Robiamny Balcacer, the Dominican Republic's first female Minister of Youth in the nation's history.

Since a young age, Minister Balcacer has been critical in youth political and social welfare activities within her community of Las Guaranas.

After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public management and modern public administration techniques, she was elected councilwoman in 2006 and, eventually, elected president of the Councilmembers Board, becoming the youngest woman in history to lead it.

As Minister of Youth, she has quickly garnered praise for her work in low-income communities throughout the Dominican Republic. She has invested in social and workforce development programs intended to reduce crime and strengthen community relationships, including constructing brand-new community computing centers and playgrounds.

Her work has attracted the attention of Dominican American community leaders in my district and all across the country, and I had the honor of meeting Minister Balcacer this morning. I am glad that she is joining us today in the gallery as her work is being recognized here on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Minister Balcacer.

CONGRATULATING BRAD FARMER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

Brad Farmer, who has spent the last 38 years of his life in service to the Boy Scouts of America, and to congratulate him on his retirement. It is because of people like Brad that Scouting has been able to positively influence the lives of millions of young American men and women.

Brad began his service in 1981 as a district executive in Wood River, Illinois, and has served Scouting in several local and national roles since then. Brad most recently served in the National Office of the Boy Scouts, where he was Assistant Chief Scout Executive for Development from 2009 until earlier this year. Brad was also charged with overseeing the Boy Scouts of America sustainability and outdoor stewardship efforts.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 10 years, Brad has provided incredible service and leadership. Brad leaves tremendous shoes to fill, but I congratulate him on a well deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Brad for his contributions to the Boy Scouts of America and our Nation's youth.

RECOGNIZING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARD ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago today in the midst of the Great Recession, millions of credit card holders got some needed relief when President Obama signed into law the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act, the CARD Act.

Before the CARD Act, some banks took advantage of their customers. For example, they raised rates and changed the terms of contracts without any notice to the customer. They even raised rates retroactively on existing balances.

The CARD Act changed that, barring many unfair and deceptive practices: no more retroactive rate hikes, no more extra fees for paying bills online or on the phone, no more aggressive marketing tactics targeting young people.

The CARD Act has saved consumers an estimated \$12 billion a year, which translates into well over \$100 billion in total savings over the past decade. It is the first 10 years, and we are celebrating this consumer protection act.

PROGROWTH POLICIES WORK

(Mr. BUDD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the state of the economy and how progrowth policies are helping my district.

A headline last month on CNBC read: "Jobs Surge in April, Unemployment Rate Falls to the Lowest Since 1969."

The U.S. added 263,000 new hires last month, including over 13,000 jobs in North Carolina. On top of that, the labor participation rate increased. Many people are coming off the sidelines and into the workforce, and the manufacturing output continues to go up.

Mr. Speaker, when we cut taxes, slash red tape, and give employers more certainty, they are able to employ more people. This just isn't rocket science.

Just a few days ago, my district received great news. Honda Aircraft announced plans to expand its global headquarters in Greensboro by investing \$15.5 million in a new facility on its campus. This will be a huge boost for Guilford County, and that is why we cannot afford to go backwards.

Tax cuts work.

Progrowth policies work.

HONORING NANCY K. JOHNSON

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we will be celebrating the life and legacy of one of my exceptional constituents, Nancy K. Johnson, who left us on January 10 of this year.

Nancy was truly a force to be reckoned with. Born in Chicago, she later moved to Santa Maria, California, with her husband, Ned, where they raised five children.

She was very active in the community and was a founding member of the Santa Maria Valley League of Women Voters, a board member and counselor at Planned Parenthood, a member of the Pismo Beach Presbyterian Church, and a nationally recognized city and county planning commissioner.

Nancy also volunteered her time with the Santa Barbara Foundation, Transitions-Mental Health, SBCAN, and the Women's Fund for North County.

She had a true passion for the arts and was a longtime supporter of PCPA community theater and the Santa Maria Symphony.

It was an honor to know and work with Nancy. Nancy will always be remembered for her passion and work towards justice and equality for all.

RECOGNIZING RYAN DIERKER

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a member of my staff and a constituent from Ohio's Second District, Ryan Dierker.

After 4 years in my office, Ryan will be leaving at the end of the month for a higher calling. He will be going to Officer Candidate School for the United States Marine Corps.

Ryan will surely be missed in my office, but I could not be prouder to watch this young man answer the call